



MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for February 16, 2011

Deaf have few options in drug, alcohol fight

From the Detroit Free Press, 2/16/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110216/NEWS05/102160408/1001/news/Deaf-few-options-drug-alcohol-fight>

"In 2008, facing an uncertain future after a string of layoffs, Richie Najor, 41, slipped into alcohol and drugs. A year and a half later, after a binge in his parents' West Bloomfield garage, he was disgusted that his tolerance was too high to even get a buzz..."

DPS Poised to Expand Anti-Bullying Policy

From Between the Lines/Pride Source, 2/15/11

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=45456>

DETROIT – "The freezing weather outside couldn't chill the warm reception the Detroit School Board members gave to Laura Hughes, executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center, and several youth representatives at the Feb. 10 school board meeting. The REC team requested the DPS board to include LGBTQ students in the district's anti-bullying policy..."

CNN to Air Ernest Withers "Pictures Don't Lie" at 8 pm on February 20, 2011

From CNN, 2/15/11

<http://cnn.com/video/?/video/living/2011/02/15/bia.obrien.ernest.withers.cnn>

Michigan anti-gay activists appeal ruling on hate crimes law

From the American Independent, 2/15/11

<http://www.americanindependent.com/169500/michigan-anti-gay-activists-appeal-ruling-on-hate-crimes-law>

"Four Michigan residents have appealed a September decision by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas L. Ludington in a suit challenging the constitutionality of the 2009 Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act..."

Battle Creek to ban anti-LGBT housing discrimination

From the American Independent, 2/15/11

<http://www.americanindependent.com/169499/battle-creek-to-ban-anti-lgbt-housing-discrimination>

"Battle Creek City Commissioners are expected to pass a fair housing resolution Tuesday night. The resolution will extend protections against discrimination based on income source, sexual orientation and gender identity..."

Prom goes gender-neutral

From the Detroit News, 2/15/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110215/METRO/102150362/1408/local/Prom-goes-gender-neutral>

"A West Michigan school district will let students vote for a gender neutral prom court this spring, following last fall's controversial handling of a transgendered female student who ran for homecoming king..."

Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan looking for testers to help investigate housing discrimination complaints

From AnnArbor.com, 2/13/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/fair-housing-center-of-southeastern-michigan/>

"WHITE MEN AND WOMEN: Would you like to be paid to help investigate CIVIL RIGHTS violations?"

Anyone who frequents area coffee shops and eateries has probably seen them by now, the neon green fliers entreating the assistance of white men and women, Latinas and Latinos, blacks — anyone, really — in testing local housing discrimination complaints for the Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan..."

ACLU asks court to side with EMU in case of former student who declined to counsel gay client

From Ann Arbor.com, 2/11/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/aclu-julea-ward-vs-eastern-michigan-university-alliance-defense-fund/>

"The American Civil Liberties Union this morning became the latest organization to weigh in on the ongoing legal dispute between former Eastern Michigan University student Julea Ward and the university..."

Bullying can cause long-term problems for victims, bullies

From the Muskegon Chronicle/MLive, 2/11/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2011/02/bullying_can_cause_long-term_p.html

"Despite the adage 'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me,' studies suggest prolonged verbal bullying can leave scars that outlast any fracture..."

Facebook freedom and job protection for all

From Between the Lines, 2/10/11

"This is the Facebook age. And because Facebook is used by just about everyone in just about any place, we deal with new privacy problems. Due to Facebook's public nature, LGBTs may be unwittingly outed on the job, although their sexuality should only be the business of whomever they would like to disclose it to. Other LGBTs choose to stay "in the closet" on the social networking site, adapting a sort of fake identity. While this is an alternative to the risk of being out on Facebook, it's not the solution: Ideally, being out on Facebook shouldn't be a risk at all. You should be free to disclose an important part of your identity in an online profile. But the lack of state and federal protections to LGBT employees means that a photo, status update, or relationship proclamation can mean the loss of livelihood..."

Dalton Township settles Justice Department lawsuit over group home

From the Muskegon Chronicle/MLive, 2/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2011/02/dalton_township_settles_justic_1.html

"Dalton Township has agreed to pay \$62,500 to settle a federal lawsuit which alleged that the township discriminated against a group home serving recovering drug and alcohol users, the U.S. Justice Department said..."

State civil rights officials want investigation of HIV documents

From the Michigan Messenger, 2/10/11

<http://michiganmessenger.com/46433/state-civil-rights-officials-confirm-interest-in-hiv-documents-controversy>

"Less than 24 hours after a civil rights organization called for state and federal civil rights investigations into the use of controversial "Client Acknowledgment Forms" by local health departments in the state, at least one state agency is taking notice..."

Wayne County Better Homes Inc. was housing pioneer

From the Detroit News, 2/10/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110210/METRO/102100396/1410/METRO01/Wayne-County-Better-Homes-Inc.-was-housing-pioneer>

Detroit — "With a city boiling over with racial tension over housing discrimination, 15 prominent businessmen and others took action..."

American Family Association Official Has New Target: Native Americans

From Southern Poverty Law Center/Hatewatch, 2/9/11

<http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2011/02/09/gay-bashing-american-family-association-official-has-new-target-native-americans/>

"Bryan Fischer, the director of issue analysis for government and public policy at the American Family Association (AFA), has expanded his astounding bigotry to include not just Muslims and LGBT people, but Native Americans as well..."

Equality Michigan calls for investigation of HIV documents

From the Michigan Messenger, 2/9/11

<http://michiganmessenger.com/46408/equality-michigan-calls-for-investigation-of-hiv-documents>

"An organization that lobbies for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights issues in Lansing has called for an investigation by civil rights authorities into the legality of controversial client acknowledgment forms being presented to HIV positive people in the state..."

Michigan Farmers to learn about labor laws

From Michigan Public Radio, 2/8/11

<http://news.michiganradio.org/post/michigan-farmers-learn-about-labor-laws>

"The Michigan Farm Bureau is starting a six month series to educate farmers about laws that apply to migrant workers and youth labor. Michigan's agriculture industry is dependent on migrant labor. The industry is still dealing with the effect of a harsh report on worker conditions by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission..."

University of Michigan considers revisions to trespass policy; lawmaker calls for more oversight

From Ann Arbor.com, 2/8/11

<http://annarbor.com/news/as-university-of-michigan-considers-revisions-to-trespass-policy-lawmaker-calls-for-more-oversight/>

"The University of Michigan's application of its trespass policy has prompted a Michigan lawmaker to call for reforms to address the potential for lax oversight of campus police departments statewide..."

NLRB settles Facebook firing lawsuit

From the Detroit Free Press, 2/8/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110208/NEWS09/102080343/1001/news/NLRB-settles-Facebook-firing-lawsuit>

WASHINGTON – "Employers should think twice before trying to restrict workers from talking about their jobs on Facebook or other social media..."

Substitute teacher reaches 'confidential settlement' with Birch Run Area Schools

From The Saginaw News/MLive, 2/7/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/02/substitute_teacher_reaches_con.html

BIRCH RUN — "A substitute teacher has reached a "confidential settlement" with Birch Run Area Schools, which she accuses of discriminating against her by passing her over for a "less-qualified male" as a long-term substitute teacher in 2008..."

Jury awards \$750,000 to former Saginaw officer for 'mental anguish,' lawyer says

From The Saginaw News/MLive, 2/4/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/02/jury_awards_750000_to_former_s.html

BAY CITY — "Attorneys for former Saginaw Police Department officer Patrick C. Shaltry said a U.S. District Court jury awarded \$750,000 to Shaltry on Friday for "mental anguish" he suffered due to discrimination against him by the department..."

Bullying: Many Solutions Needed

From Between the Lines, 2/3/11

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=45325>

"Bullying is a big, complicated problem that's influenced by tradition and technology, students and lawmakers, parents and teachers, inaction and fear..."

The state of the LGBT union

From Between the Lines, 2/3/11

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=45317>

"In his State of the Union Address last week, President Obama celebrated Congress's recent repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy: "Starting this year, no American will be forbidden from serving the country they love because of who they love." It should be obvious to all of us that elections matter and can have significant consequences for issues that are important to our community. Now, it's time for us to consider the state of the LGBT union in 2011..."

Roseville Hooters case approved for appeal

Restaurant says waitresses' discrimination case should be decided in arbitration

From the Macomb Daily, 2/2/11

<http://macombdaily.com/articles/2011/02/02/news/doc4d48d941e0797038956819.txt?viewmode=default>

"The two former Hooters waitresses who accuse their former employer of weight- and gender-discrimination were scheduled to testify in an evidentiary hearing this week in Macomb County Circuit Court in Mount Clemens..."

Civil rights trial postponed in former Dearborn probation officer's lawsuit against judge

From the Detroit Free Press, 2/1/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110202/NEWS05/102020326/Civil-rights-trial-postponed-former-Dearborn-probation-officer-s-lawsuit-against-judge?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

"A trial to determine whether a former Dearborn probation officer's civil rights were violated when she was fired by a Dearborn district judge has been postponed after the Michigan Court of Appeals ordered a stay on Friday..."

Metro Detroit Muslims commend bar owner

From the Detroit Free Press, 2/1/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110201/NEWS02/102010394/1001/news/Metro-Detroit-Muslims-commend-bar-owner>

"In the metro Detroit Muslim community, people said they were glad to hear the alleged mosque plot had been thwarted by a quick-thinking bar owner who called police..."

Editorial: Case grows clearer: Justice system fails the indigent

From the Free Press, 1/31/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110201/OPINION01/102010321/Editorial-Case-grows-clearer-Justice-system-fails-indigent?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

"A lack of state standards and little oversight over criminal defense services for the indigent, along with shamefully low pay for court-appointed attorneys, have made Michigan a McJustice state that fails to meet constitutional standards..."

KKK' poster at Hope College met with shock, inspires anti-racism event

From the Holland Sentinel, 1/29/11

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/feature/x1868082373/-KKK-poster-at-Hope-College-met-with-shock-inspires-anti-racism-event>

Holland, MI — "Hope College students and faculty are mobilizing in response to a racist flier posted in a dormitory earlier this week..."

Sikh students can wear dagger in Plymouth-Canton schools, but with modifications

From the Free Press, 1/31/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110131/NEWS02/110131014/Sikh-students-can-wear-dagger-Plymouth-Canton-schools-modifications?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

"The Plymouth-Canton school district has opted to allow Sikh students to wear a small, religious dagger to school..."

Editorial: Bill for Special Education is hefty

From the Jackson Citizen Patriot/MLive, 1/29/11

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/jackson/index.ssf/2011/01/editorial_bill_for_special_edu.html

"Special education may be the next battleground in the funding wars over public schools in Jackson County. Officials with the Jackson County Intermediate School District are warning local schools that spending cuts could be on the way this year..."

NAACP President Anthony starts term, launches legal project

From the Detroit Free Press, 1/28/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110128/NEWS01/110128047/1001/news>

"The Rev. Wendell Anthony has begun his 10th term as president of the Detroit Branch NAACP promising a "very vibrant, energized" chapter. He also announced a new litigation project and offered one big, personal surprise..."

Argentine Township settles \$400,000 complaint by former employee; township to pay \$25,000 deductible

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 1/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/fenton/index.ssf/2011/01/argentine_township_settles_400.html

ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP, Michigan — "A former Argentine Township fire lieutenant received a \$400,000 settlement from the township after she alleged sexual harassment by a former township fire chief and sexual discrimination by the township..."

DPS ID system raises privacy concerns

From the Detroit News, 1/27/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110127/SCHOOLS/101270374/1410/METRO01/DPS-ID-system-raises-privacy-concerns>

"A new security system that asks parents and visitors to show ID to enter certain Detroit Public School buildings has raised some eyebrows in the community and the interest of civil libertarians..."

Following Rick Snyder's lead, Mackinac Policy Conference embraces 'measurable results'

From AnnArbor.com, 1/27/11 (Commissioner Rodriguez is quoted in this article)

<http://www.annarbor.com/business-review/following-snyders-lead-mackinac-policy-conference-embraces-measurable-results/>

"Michigan's new symbol should be the yardstick. It seems as if everyone is appraising, benchmarking and gauging these days..."

Posting YouTube videos of two girls fighting brings suspensions for six Grand Rapids middle schoolers

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 1/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/01/six_middle_schoolers_suspended.html

GRAND RAPIDS — "Six Alger Middle School students have been suspended after some of them posted a fight video on YouTube -- an event taped after school while students were walking home..."

Torn From The Front Page: Schools should clearly define the bullying they are trying to stop

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 1/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/01/torn_from_the_front_page_schoo_1.html

"Bullying is wrong. So don't do it. We agree with the message that T.L. Handy Middle School is putting out to students and parents in the Bay City district. But it begs for more definition..."

Alger Case headed to jury

From the Mining Journal, 1/27/11

<http://www.miningjournal.net/page/content.detail/id/558212/Alger-case-headed-to-jury.html?nav=5001>

MUNISING – "An Alger County Circuit Court jury was expected today to begin deliberating the fate of Casey Clarence Trobridge, a Trenary man accused of an ethnically-motivated threat to a black man and his family at their home in July..."

Ethnic intimidation trial developments

From the Mining Journal, 1/26/11

<http://www.miningjournal.net/page/content.detail/id/558188/Ethnic-intimidation-trial-developments.html?nav=5006>

MARQUETTE – "One of two defendants charged with ethnic intimidation in Alger County pleaded guilty to a lesser offense and was sentenced Tuesday in district court, while the second defendant's trial began this morning..."